

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

January 2009

From the Chair

It's time for members to renew their membership. Forms will be available at both Agility and Flyball, and you need to complete these and pass them, with your subscription, to Kevin. Don't forget to put your email on the form if you have one as this is a good way for us to send you information.

We're not sure why, but our old website has disappeared. John-Lucas Brown has stepped into the breach and has set us up with a new site www.wdtdc.org.uk. Having been inaccessible for several weeks it is not as up-to-date as it should be so we will be working on it. This website is our window on the outside world. For club matters there is the Wiki site. I have already spotted that a certain father and son team from agility have started booking camping at shows well into the middle of Summer!



This newsletter is rather biased towards agility - with all the results from the Christmas fun & games, and the match with Andover. However, there was a flyball match on Saturday 3rd January at Wimbledon Common. I don't think anyone saw any Wombles, but the team did well - the results are on Page 3.



Many thanks to Pam for photos from the agility match against Andover (see Page 4).

Ian Hutchinson





Agility news

Agility report

Well – a great start to the year with a successful match against UpAndOver Agility Dog Club. I was particularly pleased to see how well our new members did in the nursery classes. The results are in a separate feature, so I'll just mention that there is a re-match on **Sunday 22nd February** at Andover's training location at Catherston Stud, Over Wallop. I have spare schedules & entry forms if you don't have an email. You need to enter by 9th February.

I have booked two of the most successful agility handlers and excellent trainers - Tasha Wise and David Munnings - for an **agility training workshop** on **Saturday 28th February**. Tasha & David have both been members of our club – and I have learned loads from both of them. You will get 2 hours training in a small group of roughly the same level, one hour with each trainer. The charge to members is partly sponsored by the club and will be £10 per dog.

Club training: Some members find the first class in the evening a bit early to get to after work, and some find the last class quite late once the equipment has been put away. And those lucky enough to train in the middle class have it easy as they have don't have to move the equipment at all. To make it fair to everyone, we will be changing the groups round every year. The next change will take place at the start of the next course, on **Thursday 5th March**. We will be letting everyone know the new times as soon as we have organised the trainers...

Work has started in earnest for our own Agility Show on **Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th April** at the Newbury Showground. Please put this weekend in your diary, as we will need everyone's help for as many days as possible from **Thursday 16th and Friday 17th** (setting up) to the show on the Saturday & Sunday.

Val Phillips runs Valgrays Border Collie Rescue – rehoming hundreds of collies into homes where their high energy and desire to work can be put to good use. In order to raise money for the charity, Val has started to **recycle aluminium**. She traditionally presents her 'Valgray's Agility Dog of the Year' at our show, and it would be good to be able to help her with a bag of aluminium.

Take-away food trays, containers, milk bottle tops, drink cans, some beer cans, aluminium foil etc in fact anything that is aluminium. If unsure as to whether they are aluminium, TEST cans with a magnet. If the magnet sticks to the can its NOT aluminium. There is a (tiny) symbol on aluminium cans ... it is a circle with arrows on it & inside the circle it says 'alum' - these are the ones we need - a magnet won't stick to these. Please thoroughly **wash & squash** all items down as flat as possible. I'm happy to be interim collector, so please retain any used aluminium, wash it, squash it, and bring it on a Thursday evening.

If you want to find out more about Val's work, checkout the website: <http://www.freewebs.com/valgraysbcrescue/index.htm>

(Also happy if flyball members want to recycle their aluminium for a good cause!)

The agility show season has started – and schedules are becoming available on the web. The club also has some **DVD**'s covering different aspects of agility training. The most recent, talking about contact training, is by two exceptionally successful handlers – **Toni Dawkings & Stuart Harmes**. The presentations are relaxed and the DVD is easy to watch.. They both train the traditional 2-on, 2-off method (a stop at the end of the contact with fore legs on the ground and rear legs on the contact), but their methods are slightly different. However, they do agree on the importance of play and reward, and the importance of getting the dog to work independently of where the handler is. This DVD is in the **Club library** that Kath looks after, and is well worth a look.

Jacky Hutchinson – Agility Rep

Preparing for your 1st KC agility show

Lots of different organisations run agility shows. Here are the steps you need to take before entering your first Kennel Club Show when your dog must be over 18 Months.

1. Dog needs to be registered with the Kennel Club (KC). This may have been done by the breeder. If not (eg if you have a rehomed dog) then your dog needs to be registered on the KC Activity Register. You will need to register a name and you will be allocated a KC registration number to use on show entry forms.
2. Dog needs a KC Agility Record Book. This will initially record the dog's height category. If your dog isn't microchipped or tattooed, you will need a good photograph that distinguishes your dog from others. This is also where you will keep a record of all your successes which count towards an Agility Warrant!
3. Dog needs to be measured twice by 2 KC measurers. We will have measuring sessions at our show if you can't do this before. Dog will be allocated to run in Small, Medium or Large. If obviously Large a second measurement will not be necessary.
4. Start getting schedules and entering shows! If neither you, your dog, nor your dog's owner (if not you) haven't won anything at a KC agility show before, you will be competing at grade 1.

Olympia adventure

My story starts back in August last year when Jenny's Deke got a brilliant 3rd place, after a run-off, in the Olympia Novice Qualifier at Burrige. The next step was a semi-final at Stoneleigh in September. Along with Sheila & Jon we all went up to the City of Birmingham show early on Friday morning. It was one of the few sunny days last summer, and it was great to just bask in the sunshine, eat ice cream, and watch some great agility without the stress of having to compete.

Jenny put in another superb performance both in the warm-up and again in the semi 'proper' – coming 11th overall and qualifying for Olympia. Brilliant. You can imagine my delight when she asked me to go to Olympia as her 'groom', to hold Deke while she walked the course, calm her down, and generally help her out. And the chance to go behind the scenes at Olympia and oggle at fit young men in jodphurs. Whoops – sorry about that!

So it was that early (very early – 6am to be precise) on Sunday 21 December – we set off for London and Olympia. For once we didn't get lost, only having to ask the way once, and arrived at Olympia – still in darkness. The doors to the Olympia halls were still shut. So we took Deke for a walk round the car park, and hunted down a cup of coffee. We were among the very first people into Olympia that day. Our first job was to find the meet-up point, and then just wait – and chat. Suddenly we were called to the collecting area where 35 very nervous-looking handlers, plus their anxious grooms, and excited dogs, followed the agility equipment into the arena.

From then on it was all rush, rush, rush. Dogs were handed to the grooms while handlers walked the course, whilst judge Graham Partridge was making last minute adjustments to the course. If you were REALLY quick, a handler just about had enough time to get round the course 3 times (so no long pondering over how you were going to handle a tricky pull-through!). Then, as the last handlers were leaving the course, the first dog was being set up to run. The course itself was huge, with plenty of running. Especially the home straight, which was almost the full length of Olympia!.

Jenny & Deke did really well with a good, fast round. Sadly 2 dropped poles meant that they didn't qualify for the pairs in the afternoon (for those placed 11 – 20) nor for the final in the evening (the top 10 qualifiers).

Never mind, it was a great day out for all of us, and we managed to get in some retail therapy, and watch the agility final. This was excellent, won by Kathryn Tasker and her Working Sheepdog Chi.

I'd like to thank Jenny for inviting me to be her groom – same again next year please!. I'd also like to thank Sue for looking after my 2 hooligans for the day. My only gripe was the commentator, who insisted on calling the agility competitions 'Diggy dog time'. If I were near him, I'd have hit him with the see-saw!

Lin Abbott

Flyball news

Results for competition held at Wimbledon Common on 3 Jan 2009 (brrr!) :-

Ian & Gunner

Jade

John & Gyp

Luce & Flicker

Jose & Pera

Heat 1 .vs. Hotshots Hyperdogs

- 1, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, 25.95, W
- 2, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, Average, W
- 3, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, 38.93, L
- 4, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, 35.16, L
- 5, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, 20.60, W

Heat 2 .vs. Barkshire Bandidos

- 1, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 49.79, L
- 2, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 20.69, L
- 3, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 20.21, L

Heat 3 .vs. Bassett Jellyatrics

- 1, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 33.34, W
- 2, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 20.61, W
- 3, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 20.68, W

Heat 4 .vs. Brickyard Bandits

- 1, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, 20.29, L
- 2, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, 20.59, W
- 3, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, 20.44, W
- 4, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Flicker, 20.59, L
- 5, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, N/T, L

Heat 5 .vs. Barkshire Bambinos

- 1, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 31.53, L
- 2, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 20.82, W
- 3, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 20.86, W
- 4, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, N/T, L
- 5, Gunner, Jade, Gyp, Pera, 21.58, W

Well done all.

Leanne

PS. Nice to see that the KC have finally seen sense and scrapped their flyball box in favour of the one used by the BFA (and the rest of the world). So anyone visiting Crufts will be able to see flyball as it should be. Well almost. They still won't be using electronic timing lights as it would take too long to set them up which would interfere with their hectic timetable - shame.



Club match against UpAndOver Agility Dogs - Sat 10 January

We didn't appreciate just how cold it was at the Malt House when we were setting up for the match against UpAndOver Agility Dogs until we realised that we had to smash the ice from the contact equipment before we could start! Thank goodness for Karen and her jet engine, which kept at least the 'kitchen' area warm. And I have to admit – we do a good spread of food! And talking of food – Hollie's Mum, June, was a star – bringing a couple of portable gas hobs, a couple of frying pans, a large pack of bacon and a dozen eggs, and (with help from Aileen and others) conjured up the best-tasting bacon butties ever. Thanks also to Wendy & Jo for their food spending spree, to Jo for ordering the rosettes in time (they arrived on Thursday afternoon) and to Karen for a most impressive scoring spreadsheet on her laptop.

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf benefited to the tune of £73 from the proceeds of a raffle and the sale of bacon butties. All our members helped out setting up the equipment, running the rings, then packing it all away at the end.

And we didn't do too badly in the competition, either – beating Andover overall. Most impressive were our new members – who took home a considerable number of rosettes between them. And that was on courses that were far more complicated than any they have yet met at training. In the novice classes – we were thankful for Ian & Stig (who won the agility class despite falling over) – and the small & medium dogs, who did very well across all levels (Lin & Hattie flying the flag for Wallingford in Senior classes).

We give a huge vote of thanks to Lorna & Simon Peachey for spending a day judging for us in a freezing barn!

Andover have thrown down the gauntlet for a return match – and I'm sure they will be hoping to reverse the outcome. It is on **Sunday 22nd February** at Catherston Stud, Over Wallop. The postcode is: SO20 8HX if you have a sat nav, or want to see on Google Map. It's about 50 miles from Harwell, with the majority of the route on dual carriageway (A34 & A303). They are able to set up 2 rings, so the match is for the afternoon – starting at 1pm.

The day was great. Once again – a big thank-you to everyone who helped – and a huge well-done.

Jacky Hutchinson

Results : Match

Nursery classes had 19 entries:

Jumping:

1. Gill & Bertie	20.62
2. Caroline & Tod	21.18
3. Lin & Mozzie	22.00
4. Dinah & Cinders	27.94
5. Mary & Abbey	30.56

And one other clear for Andover.

Helter/Skelter:

1. Caroline & Tod	14.06
2. Andover	
3. Andover	
4. Lin & Mozzie	14.87
5. Gill & Bertie	15.16
6. Dinah & Cinders	18.37
7. Mary & Abbey	19.09
8. Andover	
9. Hollie & Dermut	22.46

Agility:

1. Dave & Clippy	28.85
2. Dinah & Cinders	34.97
3. Caroline & Tod	40.31
<i>the only clears – but then:</i>	
4. Karen & Rupert 5f	23.25
5. Andover	
6. Lin & Mozzie 5f	34.33
7. Gill & Bertie 5f	41.47
8. Tanya & Dollar 10f	22.44

Novice classes had 22 entries:

Agility:

1. Ian & Stig	30.06
<i>despite Ian's fall!</i>	
2. Jose & Pera (small)	40.38
3. Jose & poppy (small)	40.90
4. Pam & Ashley (small)	44.41
<i>(the only clears!)</i>	

Power & Speed:

1. Andover	
2. Andover	
3. Jose & Poppy (small)	13.43
4. Pam & Ashley (small)	14.71
<i>(the only clears!)</i>	

Jumping:

1. Ian & Stig	21.50
2. Andover	
3. Andover	
4. Andover	
5. Andover	
6. Jose & Pera (small)	24.19
<i>then..</i>	
7. Jacky & Lazer,	
8. Karen & Sasha,	
9. Jose & Poppy (small),	

10. Pam & Ashley (small), and
12. Pam & Rowan (small).
(all the clears)

Starter classes had 15 entries:

Agility:

1. Julie & Bonnie	26.63
2. Wendy & Bambi (med)	34.09
3. Jo & Bronwen	34.69
<i>Then 2 Andover clears.</i>	

Jumping:

1. Andover	22.09
2. Wendy & Bambi (med)	23.50
3. Pippa & Daisy (small)	26.28
4. Andover	
5. Andover	
6. Ruth & Poppy	29.41
7. Kath & Winston	32.00
8. Andover	
<i>(all the clears)</i>	

Helter Skelter:

1. Wendy & Bambi (med)	15.07
2. Andover	
3. Aileen & Rocket	16.09
4. Andover	
5. Andover	
6. Ruth & Poppy	17.59
7. Andover	
8. Luce & Flicker (med)	17.88
9. Kath & Winston	19.19

Senior classes had 10 entries:

Power & Speed:

1. Andover 9.94	
2. Lin & Hattie (med)	10.50
3. Jill & Chi	11.62
4. Andover	
<i>(the only clears!)</i>	

Agility:

1. Andover	24.63
2. Andover	
3. Andover	
4. Carolyn & Max	25.82
5. Lin & Hattie (med)	28.09
6. Andover	
7. Chris & Fly	28.97
8. Mick & Bryn	32.47
<i>(all the clears)</i>	

Jumping:

1. Andover	22.09
2. Lin & Hattie (med)	22.35
3. Andover	
<i>(the only clears)</i>	

Well done everyone.

Living with Cole

Walking past the marquee early on May Bank Holiday Sunday my eye was caught by one of the notices. A 'border collie' peered up from the photograph. I made enquiries but this eight-month dog wasn't there that weekend. End of story? No. A phone call came from his present owner asking if I would like to meet him. Because she lived in Kent we agreed to meet up at Supa Dogs to see if he would get on with my dogs. Then things changed very rapidly and after a frantic phone call saying that the dog wasn't safe where he was, we met up before Supa Dogs. This was a dog I wasn't sure I wanted, and my dogs were not too keen either. His idea of play wasn't quite theirs – or mine. But with an owner starting to cry, pleading with me to take him - what could I do?

To Supa Dogs the following weekend. We arrived and got out to have a look at how to park on my camping spot. It was a bad mistake to undo Cole (his new name) before everything had been removed to safety - the wires have now been chewed from my sat nav. He was supposed to be good in cars. Maybe he was - until he saw agility out of the window of the car. He scrabbled frantically to get out to it, and the result - one car with no sat nav, and now with door panels with missing patches.

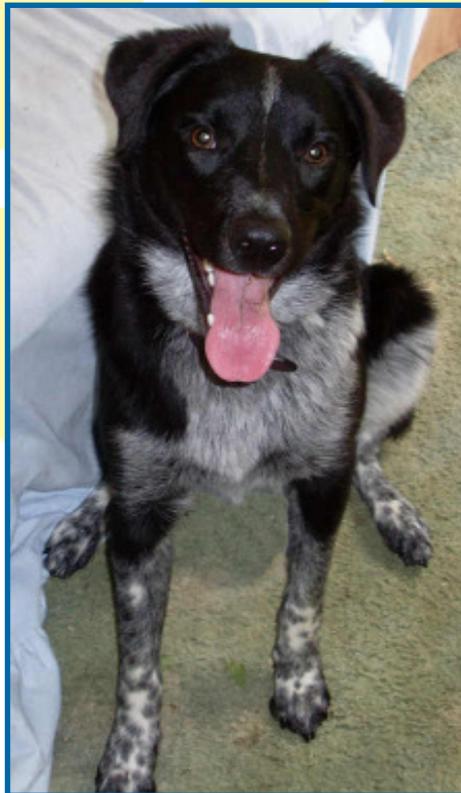
How do you contain one young dog safely. Buy a harness and chain him while I am sitting with him. Well that worked for a few minutes, until he broke out of the harness. OK – we need a cage. The first way Cole found out of the cage was to collapse it on top of himself - then squeeze through the gap. So I strap the cage together. Second escape method - pull the sides, and again squeeze through the gap. I now have a cage which sits on the back seat - which Jenny remarked looked like Fort Knox. Does it still work? Just about, but I will soon need another cage as it is getting so bent it hardly fits together now.

Taking Cole to agility I decided to put him in a harness so that he could be held while I let one of the other dogs out. Time and time again it was Cole who got out and not the dog I needed. (Some of you may recognise yourselves, as I have ended up with various helpers trying to contain him while I got one of the other dogs out.)

I am sitting typing this on a chair which I am sure will soon collapse. I used to think Cole was lying

peacefully underneath me when I was at the computer. It's true - he was lying there - but the chair leg supports now look as though they have a woodworm infestation. If he wasn't doing that, he was gazing out of the window. However, the window is quite high, so he climbs up the back of a chair and on to the windowsill. I think he might be crossed with a mountain goat... This morning I looked out and saw him on the garden table trying to climb the tree to get to the birds' food!

Doors are no problem. Unfortunately we have pull down handles, which Cole quickly learned to - pull down. How he gets in the bedroom, I don't know. Underwear is scattered round the garden – a drawer has been left open a crack - an open invitation to Cole. I find Cole looking very pleased with himself, hanging on to whatever bit of clothing he's found. At least he now lets me go to him and persuade him to let me have things back now. He had obviously been chased before - I think he is rather disappointed that I don't do that.



He is certainly working out to be quite an expensive dog. My mobile has had to be changed, as I couldn't get another charger for it after Cole's 'attention'. A collision with a large branch of a rose tree resulted in an emergency visit to the vets.

We do go to obedience training as well as agility. At long last he is beginning to enjoy the obedience lessons. We're not too good at agility yet, but I am doing a lot of work to get him playing with toys. If he doesn't take to agility, we'll take whatever he offers. He is very bright, and has learned loads in the last six months. That's all you can ask from a dog who lived his early months with an owner who had a bipolar disorder which had gone out of control.

He makes me laugh. There was an old cat at his previous house, which he had been allowed to terrorise, so he thought he would do the same with our old cat. The other two dogs have learned to give her a wide berth, but I laughed one day when Cole sped past with a cat in hot

pursuit. She wasn't in a playful mood - I could tell by the way her tail stuck up in the air!

So, am I looking for another home for him? Strangely enough for a dog who was in a pound at about three months, he has a wonderful temperament. He is friendly with other dogs and people. So if you see me with a black dog with very spotty legs, do come and say hello to him. I think I should go and check what Cole is up to. I've just noticed that he's missing from under my chair. Maybe he's at the toybox - Perie taught him how to open that.

Here's wishing everyone a Happy New Year with a lot of fun and laughs with their dogs.

Jill Hill

Agility Christmas party

Almost 40 dogs took part in the Christmas party on the final day before Christmas. Everyone was put into one of the five teams (carefully colour-coded to match the highlighter colours, to make the master team sheet easier to work with). The teams worked together throughout the evening – first of all walking the two courses, then running them. The courses were designed to be fairly easy, so that everyone could give them a good go. The tunnels & jumps course was a flowing course of just – jumps and tunnels. The Power and Speed course had a section on contacts and weaves, which were done slowly and steadily – followed by a timed jumping course.

Tunnels & jumps (all the clears)

1. Jenny & Tess	15.79
2. Gill & Chi	16.90
3=. Carolyn & Max	17.03
3=. Annette & Roxy	17.03
5. Jill & Lazer	17.19
6. Louise & Izzy (M)	17.57
7. Kevin & Fell	17.59
8. Pippa & Pera (S)	18.31
9. Gill & Bertie (S)	18.91
10. Wendy & Bambi (M)	19.47
11. Luce & Flicker (M)	21.59
12. Gill & Lexie (S)	24.25
13. Jack & Nell (S)	24.59

Power & Speed (all the clears)

1. Kevin & Fell	13.54
2. Gill & Chi	14.51
3. Jose & Pera (S)	14.54
4. Carol & Megan	15.08
5. Pippa & Daisy (S)	15.26
6. Wendy & Bambi	15.39
7. Louise & Spangle (M)	15.48
8. Pete & Tig	15.76
9. Sheila & Fenn	16.61
10. Luce & Flicker (S)	17.51
11. Gill & Lexie (S)	19.10
12. Jack & Nell (S)	19.36
13. Dinah & Cinders (M)	25.95

Times faster than winner – but with a pole down (5 faults).

Kevin & Solo	12.53
Ian & Stig	13.19
Annette & Roxy	13.39
Emily & Sky	13.42

There were some really good runs – and the small & medium dogs did well. **Jose & Pera** coming 3rd in the Power & Speed, **Pippa & Daisy** 5th and **Louise & Spangle** 7th. And the beginner dogs did well – with **Gill & Bertie** getting an 9th in the Tunnels & Jumps, and **Dinah & Cinders** coming 13th in the Power & Speed. We're a friendly lot and we share out our dogs... **Jill** got a 5th in Tunnels & Jumps running Jacky's **Lazer**, and **Pippa** took **Jose's Pera** to 8th place in the the same ccourse. Two of our youngest handlers 'did extremely well: **Jack** ran **Nell**, getting clear round placings in both competitions, and although **Sky** had a pole down, **Emily** had the 4th fastest time with her in the Power & Speed.

With a 6th place and a 1st place, **Kevin & Fell** were runners up for the Top Dog prize, which was won by **Gill & Chi** with a fantastically consistent second place in both competitions.

The teams were very close – Pink team (Captain - Kevin) won with 311 points overall.

Green team (Wendy) had 269 points, Blue team (Ian) had 251 points, Yellow team (Carolyn) had 225 points, and the Orange team (Jacky) won the wooden spoon with 222 points.

Wendy was particularly proud of her team – which had **Gill & Chi** (a grade 6 dog – who turned out to be a tad useful!) and six grade 1 dogs, including 3 from the Foundation class. So – well done to **Wendy & Bambi**, **Tanya & Scooby**, **Maria & Meg**, **Aileen & Rockett**, **Dave & Clippy** and **Dinah & Cinders**.

I would like to thank EVERYONE who came, making the evening really enjoyable. With special thanks to **Lin** (who didn't bring a dog, and judged the Jumps & Tunnels the whole evening) to **Kevin & Ian** for sharing the judging of the Power & Speed.

Also thanks to **Alison**, another member who came along without a dog, and scribed for the whole evening, and to everyone else who helped scime, time, score and generally helped keep me un-frazzled.

Jacky Hutchinson

Dates for your diary

From now ·

Subscription renewals due.

Sunday 22 February ·

Agility Re-match with UpAndOver.

Saturday 28 February ·

Agility Training Workshop with Tasha Wise & David Munnings.

Thursday 5 March ·

Change of training times at agility.

Thurs 5 to Sunday 8 March

Crufts at the NEC:

Thursday - Terrier & Hound

Friday - Toy & Utility

Saturday - Gundog

Sunday - Working & Pastoral

March (date tbc) AGM

Thursday 16 and Friday 17 April

Setting up for our show

Sat 18 and Sunday 19 April ·

Running our open agility show.

Recipe Corner

Quick as a flash Tuna Bread

1 tin of tuna in oil (if in brine, drain, and add some oil or water)
80g plain flour
1 egg *plus* a sprinkle of garlic powder

Put the tuna, garlic powder and egg in a bowl, mix. Then add the flour gradually until it all binds together (add less or more flour as you need). Pour onto a microwaveable plate and put in the microwave for 4 minutes, turn onto a wire rack to cool and cut into small cubes. Willow (a Springer) says - "This stuff is yummy and is great because it can be made in half an hour."

Found this on the web - checkout:

<http://www.itsaspringthing.co.uk/willows%20kitchen.htm>

Anyone else have any good recipes?